

medical staff, to mitigate the sufferings that inevitably accompany war.

Having completed the arrangements for the discharge of the cargo of the Chase, I visited some of the warehouses and hospitals, to examine into the condition of the returned prisoners. I shall not attempt here to picture their fearful condition.

I congratulate the Commission upon the opportunity which was afforded by the presence of so distinguished a physiologist as Dr. Dalton, who could bring to bear his powers of analysis and diagnosis, in establishing the facts with reference to the causes which had reduced these men to their present lamentable condition. Dr. Dalton spent Sunday and Monday in visiting the hospitals containing the returned prisoners, with a view of determining, whether their condition was due to disease, or the consequence of starvation and exposure, and for his calm and well digested opinion upon this subject, I refer you to his report, heretofore alluded to, marked "A."

I had several interviews with citizens of Wilmington who had seen our prisoners as they were brought into the city for exchange, with a view of ascertaining what their impressions were, as to the motives which influenced the rebel officers in the management of squads in their respective commands. I found that some of the rebel officers in charge of our returned prisoners had permitted the citizens to furnish them food, while others had forbidden all access to the pens in which the men were quartered; and one, a rebel captain, having charge of about a thousand men, had gone with his drawn sword and knocked the food from the hands of the famished men, informing the citizens who had furnished it, "that the best thing that could happen to the Yankees was to be starved, and thus expiate the crime which they had committed in invading southern territory and destroying the peace of southern homes."

On Tuesday we sailed for Beaufort, taking as passengers, David B. Adams, M. D., late Acting Assistant Surgeon U. S. A., sick with typhoid fever, and Henry Hiscocks, Captain

Battalion G 1st Missouri Light Artillery, who was in a state of confirmed phthisis, the consequence of exposure and privation during eight months in a Southern prison, and Col. B. S. Pardee, Connecticut State Agent.

On Wednesday we reached Beaufort Harbor and discharged the balance of our freight upon the Maitland, making an issue of onions and potatoes to the Fleet in the harbor, as many of the men in the Fleet had been without any but the scantiest supply of vegetables for two or three months.

On Thursday we waited upon Gen. L. V. Easton, obtained coal for the Chase, made through him an issue of pickles to the six hundred men in the Quartermaster's squad, and started by rail for Newbern.

Dr. Page, Inspector of the Commission, on duty in North Carolina, joined us at Morehead City, and went with us to Newbern. At Newbern I examined into the working of our Relief Stations, visited Dr. Cowgill, Surgeon in charge of the Foster Hospital, Dr. Hand the Medical Director, and Gen. Palmer the Commandant of the Post. I found Dr. Page distributing potatoes and onions and other antiscorbutic food, with woollen clothing and other sanitary supplies to the needy soldiers in Newbern and to such as were sent to the rear from the command of Gen. Schofield.

Messrs. Page and Bowman were absent from Newbern, having pushed forward with Gen. Schofield in the advance to Kinston, carrying with them on the construction train two large feeding tents to meet the wants of those who were wounded and sent to the rear, in the various skirmishes and fights for the possession of the line of the road between Newbern and Goldsboro. Dr. Page will report to you in detail the operations of the relief corps in connexion with General Schofield's advance; suffice it to say that the abundant resources of the Commission had been used in such a manner as to give material aid and comfort to some thousands of needy men.

Dr. Cowgill's Hospital, the Foster, was a model of successful organization and administration, and I was very much struck with the quarters appropriated to the use of the Rebel